(c) During the period 1st June, 2004 to 31st May, 2005 around 658 references were received from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and Hon'ble Ministers. Most of these references except 114 have been replied so far.

Illicit drug trade in Punjab

1811. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual revenue from illicit drug trade in Punjab has been running into crores of rupees for the last several years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that seizures made by security forces including Punjab Police and Narcotics Control Bureau represent only a miniscule of the quantum of illicit trade whose volume in terms of money is double the size of official budget of Punjab State; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The State of Punjab sharing its borders with Pakistan is vulnerable to drug trafficking. The drug trafficking being a clandestine and illegal activity, no accurate estimate of the volume of trade or illegal revenue generated out of the same can be made.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to combat illicit drug trafficking in the country. These include:

1. Strict surveillance and enforcement at import and export points, land borders, airports, foreign post offices, etc;
2. Intensive preventive and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.
3. Improved co-ordination between various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.
4. Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.
5. Increased international co-operation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in administering control over the movement of precursor chemicals.

6. Gearing up of intelligence machinery.
7. Identification of active smugglers and couriers assisting Punjab smugglers in their trans-border operation and initiating action against them.
8. Building of an electronic data base of offenders.
9. Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.
10. Launching of public awareness.
11. Strengthening of border management by construction of border roads, security fencing, flood lighting and enhances vigil along the international borders.

Separate intelligence machinery for North-Eastern States

†1812. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to constitute a separate intelligence machinery for the North-Eastern States keeping in view the continuing terrorist and separatist activities in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above-mentioned decision will come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) In the meeting taken by the Union Home Secreary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland on 15th July, 2005, it was agreed that the Directors General of Police of North-Eastern States will meet at periodic intervals for joint intelligence coordination. It was also decided to include States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Manipur also in this arrangement.

Arms recovered from cargo container

1813. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai Police recovered in May, 2005, a large quantity

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.